

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Karen Larimore Wilkinson

Public Information & Communications Manager

City of Salisbury, 217 S. Main Street

Salisbury, North Carolina 28144

Work Phone: 704-638-2113 Cell: 704-213-1050

Home Phone: 704-633-7123

Work Email Contact: kwilk@salisburync.gov

City of Salisbury Internal Measures Underway in Support of Governor Easley's Plea for Statewide Water Conservation

City Departments Create innovative Conservation Solutions: Efforts include Recycling Water to Gator Bag Usage

Salisbury, NC, October 19, 2007 – Salisbury City Manager David Treme announces today that Salisbury City Departments are proudly answering the call by Governor Mike Easley to conserve water at the state-wide level. Treme shares this information, just days after consulting with Salisbury City Council at the Tuesday, October 16th Council meeting and declaring Voluntary Level 1 Water Restrictions. The decision to implement voluntary restrictions followed the Governor's October 15th request for municipal support and a drought report update to Council by Assistant City Manager of Utilities Matt Bernhardt. All measures outlined in the City's Level 1 Voluntary Water Restrictions are both "voluntary" and "encouraged".

Treme shares, "Our employees consistently utilize numerous conservation efforts daily; however our dedicated staff members continue to create additional, resourceful measures each day. For example, the Public Services Landscaping Division is utilizing hand watering of plants with water buckets to reduce water run off and wastage. Water wagons allow employees to pump water through a hose for direct application to trees and plants. Additionally, utilization of the drip irrigation system allows water emitters to place water at a controlled rate, resulting in targeted irrigation with reduced evaporation." Treme shares that "gator bags", a wrapped bag-type-system that encases the tree ball and roots, offer Landscaping and Planning departments, the opportunity to place an initial water supply on the planting, with controlled water dispersal occurring through tiny openings at the base of the bag. The system effectively reduces water run off and wastage. Furthermore, Public Services Street Division is currently utilizing street "sweepers" in place of street "flushers" to maintain street cleanliness. "By conserving water locally and remaining good stewards of our natural resources, we can potentially share our water supply with areas throughout North Carolina that are in desperate need of support", adds Treme.

Assistant City Manager of Utilities Matt Bernhardt shares that Salisbury-Rowan Utilities is currently recycling water for departmental use with watering and maintenance needs. Bernhardt notes, "Our Utilities Department maintains water quality by flushing the lines at predetermined intervals. By capturing this supply, approximately 5,000 gallons can be recycled by loading this water into a City of Salisbury tanker truck and relocating to North Jackson Street where city departments utilize." Citizens in need of this recycled water may contact the Utilities Department at 704-638-5205 for more information. Bernhardt

adds, "We are filling the tanker right now and working to recycle water in a focused effort to support those whose water supply is dwindling daily."

Salisbury Fire Chief Bob Parnell offers that the fire department has currently suspended unnecessary water flows and is conducting hydrant inspections without water loss. The Chief offers, "Fire hose training that uses large amounts of water has been suspended however citizens can be assured that daily firefighter training continues. Furthermore, we have limited our truck washing to Saturday and only then and at that time, if necessary. The Salisbury Fire Department is proud to support Governor Easley in his appeal for statewide water conservation measures."

Citizens are encouraged to visit the City of Salisbury Website at www.salisburync.gov and click on the link labeled "Water Level 1" to review the 11 voluntary and encouraged water conservation steps. To review helpful ideas and suggestions for conserving water, a "Water Tips" link is also available on the site. Information is downloadable from the City website or if citizens wish to receive a hard copy of this information, they may visit one of the following locations: Salisbury City Hall, 217 S. Main Street; the City Office Building, 1st Floor Water Utilities Payment Counter, 132 N. Main Street; or the Salisbury Rowan Utilities Administrative Offices, 1 Water Street. Informational water conservation segments are also currently running on Government Station ACCESS 16 to assist citizens with water conservation awareness.

For more information regarding Salisbury's Level 1 Voluntary Water Restrictions or the City of Salisbury's Internal Water Conservation efforts underway, please email Karen Wilkinson, City of Salisbury Public Information and Communications, at kwilk@salisburync.gov. To speak to a Salisbury-Rowan Utilities representative regarding the receipt of available recycled water supplies, please call 704-638-5205.

###